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MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 53 Berkeley, Calif. January 1971 Number 1

"ACADIAN REFLECTIONS" IN BERKELEY JAN. 11

Robert E. Fultz brings us the third of this year's Audubon Wildlife films, "Acadian Reflections," at **8:15 p.m., Monday, Jan. 11,** in King Junior High School Auditorium. The setting is New England's *only* National Park. Situated on Mount Desert, an island off the rocky coast of Maine, is Acadia National Park, where Mr. Fultz last served as Ranger-Naturalist. He has explored and photographed this wild, rugged land to show the variety of its wildlife, ranging from tiny snail on forest floor to Bald Eagle soaring high above and tide pool life below. Mr. Fultz recently retired after many years with the Park Service to produce films and to lecture on conservation. King Junior High School is at Rose Street and Grant in Berkeley. Single admission at the door is $1.50 for adults and $1.00 for students under 18. Children under 12 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.—MRS. FRANCES ELLEN FALLGATTER, *Wildlife Films Chairman.*

JOHN SMAIL TO TALK ON PRBO RESEARCH AT NEXT MEETING

For those who have wondered what goes on at North America's only all-year, full-time ornithological research station, now is your chance! We are fortunate to have John Smail, acting Director-Biologist of Point Reyes Bird Observatory, as guest for our next regular monthly meeting of G.G.A.S. In his slide talk Mr. Smail will explain the various activities of the professional biologists and volunteers of all ages who work at the observatory. All members should attend this meeting because of the importance of PRBO's ecological research at both Point Reyes and the Southeast Farallon Island.

The program will begin at **7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 14,** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland. A no-host dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins Street, one block from the Natural Science Center. Visitors are welcome at all of our meetings.

CORRECTION, December *Gull*: The $676,000 for Conservation Education (A.B. 1050) was deleted by Gov. Reagan. Another bill did get through, with a $120,000 appropriation for this program.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM

Many thanks to Golden Gate members Mrs. Raymond Bressler, Mrs. Dudley Cameron, and Mrs. Hermine Van Gelder for desks and a rug for the Grove Street office. They are much appreciated. Since our last announcement we have gained two more volunteers and a part-time secretary, Dottie Pistorius.

In addition to the regularly scheduled courses announced earlier this fall, Audubon Nature Training has provided a variety of services in response to requests from several quarters. A teachers' series was added in Lafayette, and a series provided for Oakland Museum docents was attended by 17 people. A four-session series was given for ten U.C. students enrolled in an experimental course in conservation education. We also added a series for Community Resource Volunteers to increase the number of volunteers available to the schools. Among our other activities were seven workshops: one led by Margaret Lacrampe at a conference for Palo Alto school teachers (in-service credit earned), another led by Phyllis Lindley at the regional conference of the National Science Teachers Association in San Francisco, and three led by Phyllis Simon at the Girl Scout leadership training institute in Berkeley.

On November 19 a meeting was held by the teaching staff, now numbering ten, to evaluate the fall courses and plan for next spring. It was reported that all sessions were fully and enthusiastically attended. The spring schedule is now being planned; details will appear in the February *Gull*.—BERTHA UNDERHILL.

FIELD TRIPS FOR JANUARY

Sat. Jan. 9—Dillon Beach. Meet at **8:45 a.m.** at the Bank of America in the town of Tomales on Highway 1. (Driving time from Bay Area 1½ hours.) Parking fee $1.00 per car. Leader, Mary Louise Rosegay (561-2889).

Wed. Jan. 13—Tilden Park Nature Area. Take Spruce Street to Grizzly Peak Blvd., cross the blvd. and turn left onto Canyon Drive. At the fork in the road, turn left. Park at the Little Farm near Jewel Lake. Meet at **9 a.m.** Lunch optional. Leaders, Mrs. Tom Sherwood and Mrs. Hubert Fry.

Sun. Jan. 17—Golden Gate Park. Meet at the Chain of Lakes at **9 a.m.**, corner of 43rd and Fulton. Lunch optional. Leaders, Roberta Long and Dixie Sperling.

Sat. Jan. 23—Come to Point Reyes Bird Observatory for a demonstration of bird banding, followed by a field trip. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the observatory, on Mesa Road, Bolinas. Bring lunch. Leader, Glen Ellwood.

Sat.-Sun. Jan. 30-31—Los Banos weekend. We will visit three refuges in the San Joaquin Valley, after the hunting season. Birds will be less concentrated, but still plentiful and more of a challenge to find. We hope that Bill Anderson, formerly of Calif. Fish and Game, will be along to help us. Meet on both days at **9 a.m.** at Canal Farm Inn, Los Banos, on Highway 152, east of the railroad crossing. Make overnight reservations at the Inn; ask for a rear cabin so you can look for the owls. If you plan to join the group for dinner there on Saturday night, notify Marie Mans before Jan.

27. (Call 284-7681 or write to her at 3713 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 94549.) Leader, Marie Mans.

Dates to save: **Feb. 7** for a return trip to Point Reyes. **Feb. 14** for a trip to Thornton. **Feb. 20** for Grizzly and Joice Islands. Details in February *Gull*.

—PATRICIA TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Participation in the conference of the International Wild Waterfowl Association at San Diego in early November yielded valuable contacts and information for your Chairman. Recent reports and research findings on botulism—the dreaded "duck disease" of western marshes—were graphically presented by Dr. Brian Hunter of the California Department of Fish and Game. This disease cost the lives of some 140,000 ducks in California in 1969, a large number of which succumbed in the death trap caused by the abnormal flooding of Tulare Lake. Botulism spreads rapidly from carcasses of dead birds. Audubonites who find dead or dying birds in or near fresh-water ponds, sloughs, or ditches should pick them up and give them to the refuge managers. Abnormal numbers of dead birds should be reported immediately to refuge managers.

New techniques of handling oil-soaked waterfowl were not on the program agenda, but Phil Stanton of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Upton, Massachusetts, was present and anxious to discuss his experiences and discoveries. The success of his methods of treatment and rehabilitation,which were used on both of our coasts last year, earned him an award of $10,000 from the American Petroleum Institute to continue the work at his Center. He will even receive shipments of oiled birds from the Pacific Coast under certain conditions. Stanton may be reached at the Center, Grove Street, Upton, Mass. 01568; phone 617-529-6278. Your Chairman has available for loan a copy of his brochure: *Separating Birds and Oil*. We note that his favorite cleaning agent, Polycomplex A-11, is apparently not available in small quantities in California. Sulfonated castor oil might be substituted we suggest.

What with botulism, fowl cholera, oil, DDT, mercury, and over-zealous hunters, what chance has a poor duck? But that isn't all—and we quote from the National Wildlife Federation's October 1 issue of *Conservation News*: "Due to toxic lead still being used in today's shotgun shells by leading American and Canadian ammunition manufacturers, some one million ducks, geese, and swans will die this year because of lead poisoning. . . . The average hunter fires five shots for every duck he bags," says Frank C. Bellrose, Jr. of the Illinois Natural History Survey. "As many as 1,400 pellets may be deposited on waterfowl hunting grounds for every duck killed."

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute has been warned by authorities and biologists that it should do research that would lead to production of shells containing shot made of soft iron or some other nontoxic metal, but few or none are yet available. Why not discuss this with your conscientious duck-hunter friends? Maybe they can

help persuade the industry to make this change soon—and help save the ducks we all want!

Now we turn to the recent activities of your Internal Revenue Service, which announced that it has been studying the tax-exempt status of non-profit organizations that go to court to protect the public interest. Immediately many conservation and environmental protection organizations and members of Congress from both parties challenged this action by IRS, which apparently would seek to disenfranchise every citizen and group that sought court action to protect the environment. Public comment was invited by IRS Comm. Randolph Thrower, address 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20224. *Are you concerned?*

Secretary Walter Hickel, the man initially accused of being a "Big Business Firster," but who became on occasion a stout defender of American environments, had been asked to leave the Administration shortly before this was written. Perhaps now Mr. Hickel can, like Stewart Udall, head some environmental foundation— and make things uncomfortable for some folks.—PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR

Sept. 6—Immature Northern Shrike at Bodega Head. ("I realize that this is more than a month too early, but it was very brown and the mask ended at the eyes"—Peter H. Allen.) A Northern Shrike was observed at Bodega Head in December 1969.

Oct. 26—Four Lapland Longspurs at Point Reyes (near Drakes Bay Road and Lighthouse Road). Ferruginous Hawk in same area—Bill Pursell.

Oct. 28—Dipper at Alameda Creek in Sunol Valley Regional Park—Ruth & Ted Dement, Thaire Adamson. (George Peyton saw a Dipper there last April 4.)

Nov. 3—Blue-winged Teal in Palo Alto salt marsh—Elsie Roemer et al.

Nov. 5-6—White-throated Sparrow in Kensington garden—Inez Troxell.

Nov. 13—Eleven Clapper Rails and one Sora on Alameda's South Shore —Elsie Roemer and Enid Austin.

Nov. 8-19—Slate-colored Junco in back yard (Pacifica-Linda Mar area, about half a mile from ocean beach)—Mrs. Diann MacRae.

Mid-November—Barrows Goldeneye on Lake Merritt and female Hooded Merganser on Jewel Lake (Tilden Park).

Nov. 30—Slate-colored Junco at the Rasmussens' feeder in Berkeley.

Those who plan to go south in the coming weeks might be interested to know where Mountain Plovers can still be seen in the San Joaquin Valley. On November 21, while returning from Death Valley, Bob and Val DaCosta and Bill Pursell saw 50 Mountain Plovers in a field 4 miles south of the intersection of Highways 33 and 41. Smaller numbers were seen at other stops in the area, plus 5 Ferruginous Hawks in one field 7 miles south of Coalinga. The highlights of their Death Valley visit (Nov. 17 and 18) were an immature Harris' Sparrow and a Tree Sparrow.

Note: Observations should continue to be sent to Mrs. Violet Homem.

REPORTS OF NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Tubbs Island Trip. On Nov. 11 about 40 people showed up at the loafing ponds, where hundreds of Avocets, Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews, Dunlins, Western Sandpipers, and Dowitchers were seen in fairly large numbers. We also saw a Short-eared Owl, White-tailed Kites, and Marsh Hawks. Rain held off until we reached our cars at noon, when the California liquid sunshine descended heavily. It was a good day. —ALICE MERICOURT, *Leader.*

Led by Ray Higgs, thirty-three people attended the same trip Nov. 22. They observed many of the same shore birds, as well as the Kites, Marsh Hawks, and Short-eared Owls. Species seen in shrubs and brush were White-crowned, Song, and Savannah Sparrows, Bushtit, Wrentit, Say's Phoebe, Bewick's Wren, and Loggerhead Shrike. Under dark and threatening skies, great wedges of ducks and geese flew overhead, but the only easily recognizable ducks were Mallards, Pintails, and Shovelers. Everyone enjoyed the trip and indicated that we owe a vote of gratitude to the **Nature Conservancy** for purchasing the land and thereby making it available to us. Think (and Thank) Nature Conservancy!

WILLOWS-GRIDLEY TRIP

Some 30 members and guests attended this overnight trip on Nov. 14 and 15. Most stayed both days, and 23 of us had dinner together at the Blue Gum Motel on Saturday night. On Saturday morning we had the rolling call of Sandhill Cranes for musical accompaniment and the Sutter Buttes as a spectacular backdrop. While we were strolling along a levee at Gray Lodge, William Mather spotted a *Blue Goose*—the kind of rarity that provides leaven to the loaf. By courtesy of the owners of a Questar telescope, we were all able to get a good look at the bird. Ducks were fewer in the area than on previous trips, but geese were fairly abundant, especially on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday morning, when thousands were coming in from Tulelake and points north. We were fortunate to witness such a step in actual mass migration. By special permission we were taken to the north end of the refuge, usually closed to visitors, and had geese right in front of us: Snow, Ross, White-fronted, and Canada (two smaller races). Later we saw Whistling Swans and White Pelicans.—HARRY C. ADAMSON, Leader.

AMBITIOUS PLAN TO SAVE ARAVAIPA CANYON, ARIZONA

To preserve one of the Southwest's most important remaining natural areas, The Nature Conservancy has embarked on the most ambitious fund-raising effort of its 19-year history. Aravaipa Canyon, Pinal county, Arizona, is a rare refuge for the relentlessly pursued puma and for the Golden Eagle and countless other species. Through purchase and lease rights, The Conservancy hopes to preserve 15,028 acres of Avaraipa wilderness, assuring such free-roaming species as puma and eagles the space they need to survive. A total of $1,200,000 must be raised, of which $75,000

has been pledged by an anonymous donor. Urgently needed contributions should be sent to the National Office, Arlington, Virginia.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION COURSE ANNOUNCED

Of interest to members is "Birds Along the Pacific Continental Edge," a Univ. of Calif. Extension course to be given at the Extension Center, 55 Laguna Street. Given in cooperation with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, the course will cover birds of the entire Pacific Coast (Alaska to South America). Emphasis is on origins, migrations, adaptations to environmental stress, man's effects on shore-dwelling birds, threatened habitats and species, effects of pesticides, and conservation of marshlands and estuaries. Dates are Fri. Feb. 26 (evening), Sat. Feb. 27, and Sun. Feb. 28, with the afternoon saved for a trip to Limantour Estuary and Bolinas Bay. Frank A. Pitelka, Chairman, Dept. of Zoology at Berkeley, is faculty advisor; among the guest lecturers will be John Smail of PRBO. For information call 642-1061.

AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY

In cooperation with the University of Arizona, the Tucson Audubon Society is sponsoring an Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, to be held on two three-day weekends (April 23, 24, 25 and April 30, May 1-2). Home base will be the Tanque Verde Ranch, east of Tucson in the foothills of the Catalina and Rincon Mountains. Six distinguished authorities will lead small groups of ten or twelve on field trips to study geology, mammals, reptiles, botany, birds, and invertebrates. Enrollment is limited to 60 participants. For information write to Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 2504 East Lee, Tucson, Arizona 85716.

BEAR HARBOR RANCH

In the northwest corner of Mendocino County is Bear Harbor Ranch, about 4,000 acres of spectacularly beautiful and varied country bordered by about 6 miles of black-sand beach. Located approximately 242 miles north of San Francisco and 30 miles southwest of Garberville, this tract of ocean front land features an attractive natural harbor, a lake, ten or twelve year-round, uncontaminated creeks, and some of the finest abalone seed beds on the north coast. The climate is mild, as the area is warmed by the Humboldt current; there is almost no wind and little fog. The wildlife has been protected for years. Land mammals on the ranch include deer, bear, foxes, wildcats, and occasional mountain lions. Eagles, wild turkeys, herons, many species of hawks, Wood Ducks, Dippers, and many other birds are seen there. Along the coast are tide pools rich in aquatic life plus a colony of about 250 seals. Many feel that the scenic, recreational, and other features of this ranch make it suitable for incorporation into the State Park System. The State has expressed interest in acquiring coastal properties—and in Bear Harbor Ranch in particular. Moreover, the owner would prefer to sell the land to the Park System rather than to a

developer. Individuals interested in learning more should contact Mrs. Ernestine I. Smith of Madrone Audubon, who can supply additional information.

FIRST ANNUAL REGIONAL CHAPTER LEADERS' WORKSHOP

On October 24 of last year 58 leaders and delegates from Western Regional Chapters attended the First Annual Regional Chapter Leaders' Workshop to explore goals and exchange views. Paul Howard, Western Regional Representative, is to be congratulated for a splendid job of organizing the program, inviting delegates, and arranging for speakers. Question and answer sessions followed each talk.

Dr. Elvis Stahr, National Audubon President attended. He made a special point of reminding members that they can best influence legislators by writing as individuals rather than relying upon letters from the Society to do the job. Paul Howard closed the workshop after reminding members that there is available, in our Regional Office, equipment that the 435 officers in the Western Chapters can use for nearly instant two-way communication when a crisis arises in a chapter area.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Canyon Ranch:**

In Memory of:	*Gift of:*
Mr. Adolf V. Holmes	Elizabeth Avansino
Mrs. Grace Shuman	Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Gardner
James Norman Leet	Dr. and Mrs. Jefferson Larkey
Polly Williamson	Berkeley Garden Club
Reba Stevens, Meta Simon, and Howard Burgess	Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles
Dr. M. I. Scott	Dr. and Mrs. Jack Cathcart
Thomas S. Courtright, Fred Stickney, and Bobby Lofgren	George and Mae Rosecrans

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Nature Training:**

In Memory of:	*Gift of:*
Mr. Antone Romiti	Claire and Fred Hellman
Mrs. Martha Peters Nelson	Douglas and Frances McCallum

Mrs. Barbara Harrison made a special contribution to **Audubon Nature Training** in honor of Mrs. Violet Homem.—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Bay Area Audubon Council (BAAC)
Delegates: Joshua Barkin, George Peyton, Jr., Mrs. Richard F. Johnson (addresses above)

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National $10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2 per year.

High school & college student membership $6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.